

Smart Snacks (“All Foods Sold in School”)

Overview

Nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day were established under the direction of The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). As a result, the “Smart Snacks in School” (Smart Snacks) regulation was published in June 2013 by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) with the standards effective on July 1, 2014. The Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards are codified by 7CFR §210.11 under “Competitive food service and standards”.

Terminology

Accompaniments - Edible items, such as condiments, designed to supplement or complement a food or meal component. Any accompaniments to competitive foods must be included in the nutrient analysis of the food item served. The average amount of the accompaniment used per food item may be used in order to calculate the contribution of the accompaniment to the nutrient analysis of the food item served.

à la carte – Food items that are priced and sold separately from a reimbursable meal.

Combination food - A product containing two or more components representing two or more recommended food groups: fruit, vegetable, dairy, protein, or grain. Combination foods must meet the specific nutrient requirements described in the Smart Snacks standards.

Competitive foods - All food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day which include snacks sold in vending machines, a la carte lunch lines, fundraisers, and in student stores.

Compliant fundraiser – Funds raised for school-related purposes by selling competitive food and/or beverage items during the school day that meet the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards.

Entrée item - A main dish food item within one of these categories: 1) A combination food of meat or meat alternate and whole grain-rich food; 2) A combination food of vegetable or fruit and meat or meat alternate; or 3) A meat or meat alternate alone, with the exception of yogurt, low-fat or reduced fat cheese, nuts, seeds and nut or seed butters, and meat snacks (such as dried beef jerky).

Exempt foods - Certain nutrient dense foods that are not required to meet all of the specific nutrient requirements of the Smart Snacks standards in order to encourage students to consume more of these foods. Examples include fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables that contain no additional ingredients and nut butters that primarily consist of healthier fats.

Exempted fundraiser - Funds raised for school-related purposes under a special exemption that allows for the occasional sale of food and/or beverages during the school day that do not meet the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards. Exempted fundraiser limitations are established under fundraiser restrictions defined by the State agency.

Fundraiser -Event or activity which raises funds for a school or school-related activity that includes the exchange of currency, tokens, tickets, or other such items, for the acquisition of a product. Suggesting a

donation for any product is also considered to be a fundraiser as is the use of a vending machine if the profits benefit a school-related club or activity. For further guidance, see compliant fundraiser, exempted fundraiser, and fundraiser restrictions.

Fundraiser restrictions - Per Idaho state policy, up to ten (10) exempted fundraisers, for a maximum of four (4) consecutive school days, per school may be approved by the school administrator. All exempted fundraisers beyond the ten (10) locally approved exempted fundraisers must be pre-approved by the State agency. **All fundraisers**, both compliant and exempted, **must be tracked**. No exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.

Paired exemptions - Items that have been designated as exempt from one or more of the nutrient requirements individually and packaged together without any additional ingredients. Paired exemptions retain their individually designated exemption for total fat, saturated fat, and/or sugar when packaged together and sold. However, they are still required to meet the calorie and sodium limits for Smart Snacks.

School campus - For the purpose of the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, school campus encompasses all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.

School day - For the purpose of the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, school day is the period from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

What are the Smart Snacks nutrition standards?

The Smart Snacks in School standards are nutrition guidelines for foods and beverages sold in school outside of the school meals programs such as vending machines and a la carte lines. These nutrition standards promote healthier choices by offering healthier snack foods to students while limiting junk food. Smart Snacks nutrition standards limit fat, sugar, and sodium while promoting fruits and vegetables, leaner protein, low-fat dairy and whole grains. The rule draws on recommendations from the Institute of Medicine, existing voluntary standards already implemented by thousands of schools around the country, and healthy food and beverage offerings already available in the marketplace.

Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards do not apply to foods or beverages brought to school from home for lunch, parties, or special events. The standards also do not apply to items provided at no cost at school such as food at parties or given as incentives. However, many local school wellness policies prohibit providing foods and beverages that do not support the standards.

Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards require that foods sold in schools meet **one** of the following criteria:

- Have a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food as a first ingredient
- Be a whole grain-rich grain product
- Be a combination food containing at least ¼ cup fruit and/or vegetable
- Contain at least 10% of the daily value (DV) a nutrient of public health concern identified in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. (However, beginning July 1, 2016, foods may not qualify for the Smart Snacks standards using the 10% DV criterion)

In addition to the criteria listed above, food items must meet defined nutrient requirements that limit calories, sodium, fats, and sugars.

Foods

Snack items and Entrée items have different limitations for the nutrient requirements. These requirements are as follows:

- Calorie Limits:
 - Snack items: ≤ 200 calories
 - Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories
- Sodium Limits:
 - Snack items: ≤ 230 mg (this decreases to ≤ 200 mg sodium per item on July 2016)
 - Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg
- Fat Limits:
 - Total fat: $\leq 35\%$ of calories
 - Saturated Fat: $< 10\%$ of calories
 - Trans fat: zero grams
- Sugar Limit:
 - $\leq 35\%$ of weight from total sugars in foods

Beverages

- Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards sets standards by grade level for the following allowable beverages: unflavored low fat milk, unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program, 100% fruit or vegetable juice and 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation) and containing no added sweeteners
 - Elementary schools may sell up to 8oz portions milk and juice (there is no restriction for water)
 - Middle School and high school may sell 12oz portions of milk and juice (there is no restriction for water)
 - High Schools may sell up to 20oz portions of “no calorie” and “low calorie” beverage options
- Calorie free flavored water (with or without carbonation) has no limit
- Other flavored and/or carbonated beverages that are labeled to contain <5 calories per 8 fluid oz or ≤ 10 calories per 20 fluid oz are not allowed in elementary and middle school; in high school the portion size is limited to ≤ 20 fluid ounces
- No more than 12oz portions of beverages with ≤ 40 calories per 8 fluid oz or ≤ 60 calories per 12 fluid oz are allowed in high school; these are not allowed in elementary and middle school

Fundraisers

The Smart Snacks standards apply to fundraisers that involve food and beverages sold to students during the school day. USDA has provided some flexibility with exemptions and Idaho State Department of Education has set a limit of ten (10) exempted fundraisers per school year, per school site to be approved by the school administrator. Each exempted fundraiser must not be longer than four (4) consecutive school days of duration and cannot be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service. Exempt fundraisers in excess of four (4) consecutive school days will be counted as two or more fundraisers. Federal Regulation requires all fundraisers, both exempted and Smart Snacks compliant, to be tracked. Pre-approval from the State agency is required for all exempted fundraisers beyond the ten (10) locally approved exempted fundraisers. This approval

requires the tracking documentation used by the school administrator for all fundraisers held during the year.

Why are Smart Snacks nutrition standards important?

The Smart Snacks in School standards provide science-based standards that promote fruits and vegetables, leaner protein, low-fat dairy and whole grains while limiting fat, sugar, and sodium. These standards are important because they make it easier for students to select healthier choices by giving them greater access to healthier foods. Healthier foods enhance the health and wellbeing of students which can make them better learners. The standards also support the efforts of parents, schools, and communities in encouraging healthy habits in students.

Resources

Additional resources may be available for this topic. Please check the Idaho School Nutrition Reference Guide website for copies of manuals, user guides, and helpful links to relevant subject matter.